

Matters

USAID Liberia's quarterly roundup of
activities and impact

INSIDE:

Page 1:

**10 Mw power station handed
over to LEC**

**New USAID Liberia Mission
Director Arrives**

Page 3:

**PMI donates 360,000 bednets
to Ministry of Health**

Page 4:

**USAID responds to Ivorian
refugee crisis in Liberia**

Page 5:

**WFP School Feeding Program
photos**

World Water Day 2011

10 MW POWER STATION HANDED OVER TO LEC

On February 14 this year, the Liberia Electricity Corporation took ownership of a ten mega-watt power generation station on Bushrod Island, Monrovia, less than a year after President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf made a personal appeal to the US government to provide assistance to the struggling energy sector.

At the handover ceremony Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and USAID Mission Director Patricia Rader represented the United States, while President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf accepted the handover for the LEC and government of Liberia.

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield described the construction of the \$11 million power station as "a major accomplishment that will have a lasting and positive impact for the people of



The dignitaries cut the ribbon

continued on page 2

NEW MISSION DIRECTOR ARRIVES IN LIBERIA

Patricia Rader was officially sworn in as USAID Liberia Mission Director on Tuesday, February 8th, in a ceremony held on the US Embassy grounds.

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield was on hand to officially swear in Ms. Rader as the assembled US Embassy staff watched, administering the oath of office, and formally introducing Ms. Rader to the Mission.

Ms. Rader has had a long and diverse career with USAID. Her vocation has taken her to Africa, Pakistan, Macedonia, and most recently Kosovo. She served as Deputy Mission Director in Pakistan, and Mission Director in Macedonia and Kosovo.

Ms. Rader has served as the Director of the Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Bureau Program Office at USAID's Headquarters in Washington, D.C. She also previously served in Tanzania, and has spent several years in USAID's

Africa Bureau, also in Washington.

Raised in Illinois, Louisiana and Connecticut, Ms. Rader has a Master of Science degree from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., a Master of Arts in International Development **continued on page 2**



Mission Director Rader is sworn in by Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield

10 MW POWER STATION...

1.2011



The new power station

Monrovia, who have been waiting patiently to have grid-based electricity in their homes.”

President Johnson-Sirleaf also lauded the impact the new power plant will have on the lives of Liberian citizens, while also taking the opportunity to caution Liberians against unregistered use of electricity lest they “lost the support of the donor community.”

The new power station effectively doubles the power-generation capabilities of the LEC and, in conjunction with an EU project to expand the power distribution infrastructure of Monrovia, should quickly start to make a difference in the lives of Monrovia*i*.

NEW MISSION DIRECTOR...

from the Fletcher School, Tufts University in Boston, and a Bachelor of Arts in English and Political Science from the University of Connecticut.

In her remarks to the Embassy staff Ms. Rader said she recalled arriving at Roberts Field Airport in the 1970s, and that when she arrived at Roberts Field again last week “I felt like I had come full circle – and was coming home.”

During her remarks Ms. Rader also took the opportunity to recognize the “unique opportunity to provide support and guidance and to make a difference for the future of the country and in the lives of the people” that exists in Liberia, and expressed how pleased she was to be a part of that. ★

Did you know?

Matters is now an interactive document.

If you are reading this on an internet-connected computer, you have access to additional content at your fingertips. Whenever you see content end with the *i* symbol, simply click on it to see photo collections, related articles, and even videos about USAID and international development in Liberia.

To find out more about USAID’s work in Liberia, follow us on the web by clicking on any of these:



PMI DONATES 360,000 BEDNETS TO MoHSW

I.2011

On February 18th, USAID and the Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) handed over 360,000 mosquito nets to the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

In a ceremony held at the National Malaria Control Program offices, USAID Liberia Mission Director was joined by Dr. Bernice Dahn, representatives of the National Malaria Control Program, and representatives of USAID Liberia's Health Office to mark the occasion with a symbolic handover of a few mosquito nets from USAID/PMI to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW).

The 360,000 mosquito nets donated during the ceremony are in addition to the 1.1 million donated through USAID/PMI since 2008. The total, 1.4 million nets, should be enough to ensure the vast majority of Liberian households are able to protect themselves from mosquitos each night.

In her remarks to the assembled press, USAID Liberia Mission Director Patricia Rader highlighted the vital importance of using the mosquito nets, pointing out that scientists worldwide agree that the most effective way to combat the spread of Malaria is by using a mosquito net at night.

Mission Director Rader went on to add that "There is no need for Liberians to have malaria, but for that to happen they must use the nets every night."



Mission Director Rader and Dr. Dahn (right) pose with some nets



Addressing the press following the handover

Donation and distribution of mosquito nets is just one part of a multi-pronged approach being taken by PMI and USAID to combat the spread of Malaria in Liberia.

The donation of malaria treatment to the MoHSW for use in health centers around the country are another important facet; over 2 million treatment dosages have been donated since 2008, filling between 30 and 40% of the need country-wide each year.

An active Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) program rounds out USAID/PMI interventions to fight malaria. In 2010 over 420,000 Liberians benefitted directly from IRS campaigns in 4 counties, and this year that number is expected to increase

to over 520,000.

The PMI goal in Liberia is to achieve eighty-five percent (85%) coverage of Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), prevention with insecticide-treated nets (LLNs), intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women (IPT), and Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS), in order to reduce malaria-related mortality by 75% in 2015. ★

USAID RESPONDS TO IVORIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

I.2011

On November 28th 2010 the first refugees from Côte d'Ivoire crossed the border into Liberia, wary of the looming specter of post-election violence.

In the three months that followed, the refugee influx increased dramatically as the political stalemate in Côte d'Ivoire destabilized the country. Fleeing indiscriminate violence, the refugees crossed into Liberia by the hundreds, reaching as many as 1,000 per week. Today, the UN estimates that over 170,000 refugees have sought refuge in Liberia.

While Liberian border communities have generously welcomed the refugees, they have been overwhelmed by the large numbers of Ivorians who need shelter and as a result some refugees have been turned away by communities.

Barely a month after the first refugees arrived in Liberia, on December 31st, the USAID Office of Food For Peace (FFP) authorized a food commodity swap between the UN's World Food Program and FFP implementing partners. The swap allowed WFP to immediately borrow 53 metric tons of yellow peas and

vegetable oil to meet the urgent needs of the Ivorian refugees.

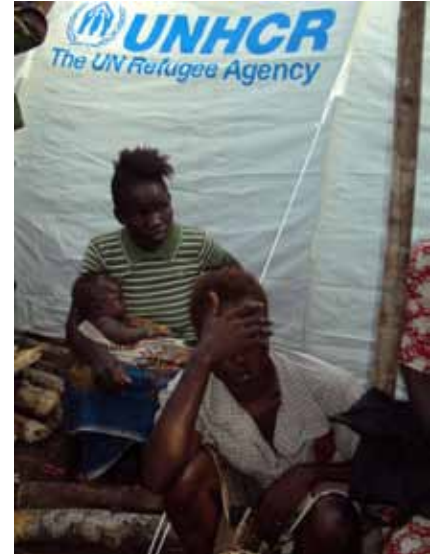
In the four months since, USAID has continued to carefully monitor and react to the growing refugee population's needs. On January 4th the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) provided \$100,000 of assistance in conjunction with Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield issuing a disaster declaration. Later that month FFP provided WFP with \$3.1 million for repayment of the December commodity swap and in support of their response plans. In March FFP provided an additional \$7.5 million of in-kind commodities to WFP to

assist the continued refugee response. In addition to the food aid, USAID/OFDA has also provided \$3.5 million in assistance to the UN and NGO partners to support other critical sectors including health, protection, shelter and water/sanitation/hygiene.

When asked about USAID's ongoing response to the crisis, Mission Director Patricia Rader said "The generosity of the Liberian communities who have hosted Ivorian refugees has been inspiring but the needs across all sectors, and in all four border counties, remain high."

She went on to add that "although political stability is returning to Côte d'Ivoire we expect that refugees will stay in Liberia for a significant period of time, so USAID is planning continued assistance through the coming rainy and hungry seasons."

To date the US government has provided over \$42 million in direct response to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration has been active in the refugee response, providing over \$12 million in assistance to the refugee crisis response, while the balance of the assistance has been delivered by USAID in funding and food aid to non-governmental organizations and UN agencies in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. *i*



WFP SCHOOL MEALS AND TAKE HOME RATIONS



Lining up at lunch time

Did you know?

USAID contributes to the World Food Program's School Feeding and Purchase for Progress programs in Liberia.

Partly through US funds WFP is able to purchase rice grown by Liberian farmers and milled by local co-operatives, to distribute to rural schools for school lunches.

The students in the photos on the left are from Royesville Public School where WFP has been providing meals since the 1999/2000 academic year.

Parents of the students are required to contribute to the school feeding program by providing firewood that the meals can be cooked on each day.

In addition to meals at lunch time WFP also provides take home rations to girls in schools with high gender disparity, in an effort to encourage parents to keep their girls in school.

School attendance records in Liberia show 15% or higher gender disparity in favor of boys.

In 2010 total US contributions to the School Feeding Program and Purchase for Progress program was \$10 million, and an estimated 300,000 children benefitted.

WORLD WATER DAY

On March 22nd countries around the world marked World Water Day.

World Water Day was first observed in 1993 when the UN General Assembly officially declared March 22nd as World Day for Water.

About 900 million people across the globe lack access to a clean water source, and 2.6 billion people lack access to proper sanitation, which directly contribute to over 2 million deaths each year.

For 2011 the theme of World Water Day was "Water for Cities: responding to the urban challenge".

USAID Liberia recognized the day by releasing an editorial by Mission Director Patricia Rader reaffirming USAID's commitment to improving access to clean water and sanitation in Liberia, as well as detailing the activities USAID is involved in. *i*



Matters is USAID Liberia's quarterly newsletter.

Matters is produced in-house by Justin Prudhomme, USAID Liberia Development Outreach Communications Specialist.

Comments and questions are welcome!

Read more about the great work USAID is doing in Liberia at:
<http://liberia.usaid.gov>